

# Rowan Salisbury School System Head Lice Prevention & Control Regulation

## Medical Impact

Pediculosis is an infestation of head lice, not an infection. It does not pose a significant health hazard and is not known to spread disease. The most common symptom is itching due to sensitization to allergens in lice saliva. Many times, there are no symptoms. Occasionally, scratching leads to chafing and secondary bacterial infection requiring treatment with an antibiotic. Disease impact from *Pediculosis capitis* is negligible.

## Education of Parents

A letter titled Parent/Guardian Education is available found on the school website and may be sent home with every student in elementary school at the beginning of each school year. It may also be enclosed in new enrollee packets.

## Education of School Staff

An informational flyer, Staff Education Re: Head Lice is available to staff by their school nurse. Other research-based resources are also available through the school nurse.

## Head Lice Check: Elementary, Middle, High School

Staff members may check any student who shows symptoms of head lice infestation.

It may be advisable to check siblings of a student with infestation. Obtain parent permission before checking siblings. If a parent declines for sibling to be checked, encourage the parent to check the sibling as well as all family members.

If head lice infestation is suspected, refer to the Pediculosis (Head Lice) Procedure.

## Roles and Responsibilities

**Parents have the ultimate responsibility for their children.** This includes:

- assisting in the prevention and management of head lice cases through regular checks of their children's hair and starting immediate treatment when head lice are detected.

**Schools have responsibility for:**

- disseminating current information on head lice
- providing education for parents and children, as needed
- alerting parents when a case has been identified with their child and encouraging regular head checks at home.
- checking students with signs of infestation
- encouraging parents to seek advice from their healthcare provider as needed.

## Bibliography

Frankowski, MD, Barbara & Weiner, MD, Leonard. "Clinical Report: Head Lice." American Academy of Pediatrics. September 2002.

Michigan Head Lice Manual. Michigan Department of Community Health and Michigan Department of Education. July 2004.

“Position Statement: “Pediculosis in the School Community.” National Association of School Nurses. July 2004.